

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway  
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### **NEW MADRID MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

May 14, 2007

A New Madrid, Missouri man pled guilty today to the charge of unlawful possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

**GEORGE W. DAWSON**, age 52, pled guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge Catherine D. Perry.

On November 19, 2006, officers with the New Madrid, Missouri, Police Department responded to a complaint in reference to a subject possessing a gun near M&H Package Store on Russell Street in New Madrid, Missouri. Upon arriving, officers observed Dawson sitting on a bench holding a .223 caliber rifle on his lap.

Due to Dawson's previous felony convictions, he is prohibited by law to possess firearms. He now faces a maximum punishment of ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for August 27, 2007.

Hanaway praised the New Madrid, Missouri Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Paul W. Hahn handled the prosecution for the Government.